

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTORS: Peter E. Leach and Christopher M. Gallant  
Serial No: not yet assigned                      Examiner:  
Filing Date: October 29, 2003                      Art Unit:  
For: SEGMENTED SEPARABLE FASTENER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

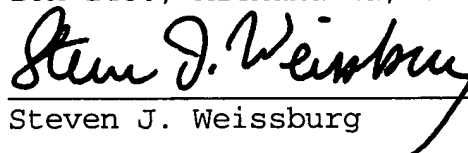
The information on attached PTO/SB/08A+B is being brought to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56 and 1.98.

All of the below references were included in the parent application, U.S.S.N. 09/576,831, filed on May 23, 2000, the benefit of which is claimed by this application. Thus, no copies are included.

The 36 references and Exhibits 1-4 listed below were included in an Information Disclosure Statement mailed on June 13, 2001, in the parent application U.S.S.N. 09/576,831.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this Document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date October 29, 2003, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EV239312490US, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Steven J. Weissburg

U.S. Patent No. 3,752,619, issued to Menzin et al. on August 14, 1973, entitled PRODUCTION OF A CONTINUOUS MOLDED PLASTIC STRIP, based on an application filed Nov. 11, 1971, which is a divisional of U.S.S.N. 824,597, filed May 14, 1969, which was abandoned.

U.S. Patent No. 4,563,380, issued to Black et al. on January 7, 1986, entitled FASTENER ASSEMBLY WITH IMPROVED TEMPORARY ATTACHMENT LAYER, based on an application filed August 31, 1984, which was a continuation in part of abandoned U.S.S.N. 629,330, filed on July 10, 1984.

U.S. Patent No. 4,592,118, issued to DeWoskin on June 3, 1986, entitled FASTENERS FOR APPAREL AND METHODS OF MANUFACTURING THEM, based on an application filed November 18, 1983.

U.S. Patent No. 4,617,214, issued to Billarant on October 14, 1986, entitled STRIP OR SIMILAR ELEMENT FOR BEING ATTACHED TO AND COVERED BY A MOLDED ARTICLE AND METHOD, based on an application filed OCTOBER 5, 1984.

U.S. Patent No. 4,673,542, issued to Wigner et al. on June 16, 1987, entitled METHOD OF MAKING A FOAMED SEAT OR CUSHION HAVING INTEGRAL FASTENERS, based on an application filed June 14, 1985.

U.S. Patent No. 4,693,921, issued to Billarant et al. on September 15, 1987, entitled FASTENING TAPE DESIGNED TO BE ATTACHED TO A MOLDED ARTICLE DURING MOLDING, AND ITS ATTACHING METHOD, based on an application filed November 30, 1984.

U.S. Patent No. 4,710,414, issued to Northrup et al. on December 1, 1987, entitled FASTENER ASSEMBLY WITH HEAT SHRINKABLE FILM COVER, based on an application filed July 10, 1984.

U.S. Patent No. 4,726,975, issued to Hatch on February 23, 1988, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ADAPTING SEPARABLE FASTENERS FOR ATTACHMENT TO OTHER OBJECTS, based on an application filed September 23, 1986, which is a continuation in part of U.S.S.N. 756,005, filed on July 17, 1985.

U.S. Patent No. 4,732,631, issued to Shimizu on March 22, 1988, entitled METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A TAPE HAVING A SERIES OF SURFACE-TYPE FASTENER PIECES, based on U.S.S.N. 884,900, filed July 14, 1986.

U.S. Patent No. 4,784,890, issued to Black on November 15, 1988, entitled FASTENER ASSEMBLY WITH PERIPHERAL TEMPORARY ATTACHMENT LAYER, based on an application filed October 16, 1987, which is a continuation of abandoned application U.S.S.N. 876,687, filed June 20, 1986.

U.S. Patent No. 4,794,028, issued to Fischer on December 27, 1988, entitled METHOD FOR CONTINUOUSLY PRODUCING A MULTI-HOOK FASTNER MEMBER AND PRODUCT OF THE METHOD, based on an application filed May 15, 1986, which is a continuation of abandoned application U.S.S.N. 600,990, filed April 16, 1984.

U.S. Patent No. 4,842,916, issued to Ogawa et al. on June 27, 1989, entitled SEPARABLE FASTENER COMPONENT & MOLDINGS ATTACHED WITH SUCH FASTENER COMPONENT, based on an

application filed DECEMBER 31, 1987. (It is believed that this patent is substantively cumulative to French Patent Publication No. 2,609,758, listed below.)

U.S. Patent No. 4,881,997, issued to Hatch on November 21, 1989, entitled METHOD FOR ADAPTING SEPARABLE FASTENERS FOR ATTACHMENT TO OTHER OBJECTS, based on an application filed January 24, 1989. (Substantively cumulative to U.S. Patent No. 4,933,224, listed below.)

U.S. Patent No. 4,931,344, issued to Ogawa et al. on June 5, 1990, entitled FASTENER COMPONENT, based on an application filed December, 1988.

U.S. Patent No. 4,933,224, issued to Hatch, on June 12, 1990, entitled METHOD FOR ADAPTING SEPARABLE FASTENERS FOR ATTACHMENT TO OTHER OBJECTS, which is based on a chain of applications beginning with abandoned U.S.S.N. 756,005, filed on July 17, 1985.

U.S. Patent No. 5,058,245, issued to Saito on October 22, 1991, entitled FASTENING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FIXING ADHEREND BY USING THE SAME, based on an application filed October 31, 1989.

U.S. Patent No. 5,061,540, issued to Cripps et al. on October 29, 1991, entitled SEPARABLE FASTENERS FOR ATTACHMENT TO OTHER OBJECTS, based on an application filed January 25, 1990.

U.S. Patent No. 5,110,649, issued to Morse et al. on May 5, 1992, entitled SEPARABLE FASTENERS FOR ATTACHMENT TO OTHER OBJECTS, based on an application filed JULY 3, 1990.

U.S. Patent No. 5,171,395, issued to Gilcreast, on Dec. 15, 1992, entitled SHAPED MOLD-IN, based on an application filed on August 9, 1990.

U.S. Patent No. 5,180,618, issued to Kessler et al. on January 19, 1993, entitled SEPARABLE FASTENERS FOR ATTACHMENT TO OTHER OBJECTS, based on an application filed July 26, 1991.

U.S. Patent No. 5,259,905, issued to Gilcreast on November 9, 1993, entitled METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING A SEPARABLE FASTENER FOR INCORPORATION INTO A SEAT BUN, based on an application filed September 3, 1992.

U.S. Patent No. 5,260,015, issued to Kennedy et al. on November 9, 1993, entitled METHOD FOR MAKING A LAMINATED HOOK FASTENER, based on an application filed August 16, 1991.

U.S. Patent No. 5,286,431, issued to Banfield et al. on February 15, 1994, entitled MOLDED PRODUCT HAVING INSERT MOLD-IN FASTENER, based on an application filed November 16, 1992, which is a divisional application of U.S.S.N. 695,183, filed May 3, 1991.

U.S. Patent No. 5,422,156, issued to Billarant on June 6, 1995, entitled FASTENING MEMBER WITH FERROMAGNETIC ATTACHMENT STRIP, based on an application filed April 23, 1993.

U.S. Patent No. 5,500,268, issued to Billarant on March 19, 1996, entitled FASTENER ASSEMBLY WITH MAGNETIC SIDE AND END SEALS AND METHOD, based on an application filed January 31, 1995.

U.S. Patent No. 5,540,970, issued to Banfield et al. on July 30, 1996, entitled DIE CUT MOLD-IN, based on an application filed September 29, 1995, which is a continuation based on a series of applications beginning with U.S.S.N. 87,917, filed July 6, 1993 (abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part based on a series of continuations beginning with U.S.S.N. 695,183, filed May 3, 1991 (abandoned). (Please note that the Related U.S. application data on the face of the patent is incorrect. The CIP was U.S.S.N. 87,917, not U.S.S.N. 390,150.) (Substantively cumulative to U.S. Patent No. 5,736,217, listed below.)

U.S. Patent No. 5,606,781, issued to Provost et al. on March 4, 1997, entitled, SEPARABLE FASTENER HAVING A BALD PERIMETER RIB BOUNDED BY FASTENING ELEMENTS, based on an application filed Feb. 17, 1995.

U.S. Patent No. 5,665,449, issued to Billarant on September 9, 1997, entitled FASTENER ASSEMBLY WITH MECHANICAL END SEALS, based on an application filed April 17, 1996.

U.S. Patent No. 5,688,576, issued to Ohno et al. on November 18, 1997, entitled FASTENER MEMBER FOR MOLDING AND PRODUCTION OF PLASTIC MOLDED ARTICLE WITH FASTENER MEMBER MOLDED THEREON, based on an application filed May 3, 1996.

U.S. Patent No. 5,725,928, issued to Kenney et al. on March 10, 1998, entitled TOUCH FASTENER WITH MAGNETIC ATTRACTANT, based on an application filed February 17, 1995.

U.S. Patent No. 5,736,217, issued to Banfield et al. on April 7, 1998, entitled DIE CUT MOLD-IN, based on an

application filed July 19, 1996, which is a continuation in a chain of patents and applications dating back to U.S.S.N. 87,917, filed July 6, 1993, which was a continuation-in-part based on a series of applications originating with U.S.S.N. 695,183, filed May 3, 1991, which was abandoned.

U.S. Patent No. 5,786,061, issued to Banfield on July 28, 1998, entitled SEPARABLE FASTENER HAVING A PERIMETER COVER GASKET, based on a chain of applications filed on May 3, 1991.

French Publication No. 2,423,666, was published on November 16, 1979, assigned to Aplix, entitled HOOK-FASTENING STRIP AND METHODS AND MEANS COMPRISING APPLICATION, based on application 78-04001 filed February 13, 1978. An English translation is also provided. The translation was not prepared by applicants, but, rather was found in the file history for U.S. Patent No. 4,802,939, assigned to Aplix. Applicants do not vouch for its accuracy.

French Patent Publication No. 2,609,758, issued to Ogawa and Noguchi, published on July 22, 1988, entitled CONSTITUANT D'ATTACHE SEPARABLE ET OBJETS MOULES FIXES AVEC CE CONSTITUANT D'ATTACHE, based on an application filed January 19, 1988. (It is believed that this patent is substantively cumulative to U.S. Patent No. 4,842,916, listed above. The U.S. patent is therefor relied upon as a translation of any pertinent parts.)

European Patent Publication No. 0 138 724 A2, issued to Louison, published on April 24, 1985, entitled ELEMENT AUTO-

AGRIPPANT SURMOULABE POUR LA REALISATION DE CORPS OU CARCASSES MOULES OU INJECTES EN MATIERE SOUPLE, OU RIGIDE, NOTAMMENT POUR LES SIEGES DE VEHICULES AUTOMOBILES, ET LES CORPS OU CARCASSES METTANT EN OEUVRE L'ELEMENT, based on an application filed September 28, 1984. EPO 0 138 724 A2 shows a hook and loop type fastener 1 that is held in a mold M by adhesive regions 1c which may be longitudinal (Figs. 2, 10) or transverse (Fig. 6).

PCT International Application Publication No. WO 86/03164, issued to Provost et al., published on June 5, 1986, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ADAPTING SEPARABLE FASTENERS FOR ATTACHMENT TO OTHER OBJECTS, based on an application filed November 20, 1985.

PCT International Application Publication No. WO 96/25064, filed February 16, 1996, published August 22, 1996, entitled TOUCH FASTENER WITH MAGNETIC ATTRACTANT, based on an U.S.S.N. 08/390,876, filed February 17, 1995.

PCT International Publication No. WO 98/02331, applicant Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, published January 22, 1998, entitled FASTENER MEMBER USED AS INSERT AND METHOD FOR CONNECTING SUCH FASTENER MEMBER WITH MOLDED OBJECT, based on application no. PCT/US97/10338, filed June 18, 1997. The Examiner is directed to p. 23, l. 5 - p. 25, l. 5. It is believed that the joint described therein is not shown in any illustration. Thus, applicants are not certain of its configuration.



Applicants also wish to disclose information relating to a part that was shown to employees of the assignee hereof, by an unrelated company, more than one year before the application filing date. The part is shown in the attached exhibits 1, 2, 3 and 4, which are color photocopies of photographs of the part. At one time it was embedded into foam. Bits of foam can be seen still attached to the oval shaped anchors 12 in Exh. 1 and 2. The product is made from a relatively stiff plastic. The product is slightly flexible if bent slightly as at B, but not if bent as at A. It is relatively inflexible if twisted about its longitudinal axis C. It is believed that this product was manufactured by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company (3M), and is similar in some respects to items disclosed in WO 98/02331, above. However, it does not appear that it is fully described therein. It is not known whether the product was commercially available. Given the uncertainties, this product is expressly not admitted to be prior art.

The following three items were all cited in the International Search Report of the PCT application of the Parent, PCT/US01/16379, mailed on Dec. 5, 2001. These three references were submitted in the parent case 09/576,831, in a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement mailed on January 15, 2002.

U.S. Patent No. 4,951,408, issued to Thomas S. Banks on August 28, 1990, entitled PAPER CLIP TAB DEVICE, based on an application filed February 16, 1989.

U.S. Patent No. 5,579,562, issued to Hattori et al. on December 3, 1996, entitled INTERENGAGING FASTENER HAVING LOCATING FEATURE, based on an application filed August 3, 1994.

U.S. Patent No. 5,766,723, issued to Oborny et al. on June 16, 1998, entitled FASTENER ASSEMBLY WITH PERIPHERAL SEAL, based on an application filed November 12, 1996.

The following three references were cited by the Examiner in an Office Action in the parent case 09/576,831 dated February 4, 2003.

U.S. Patent No. 6,463,635 B2, issued to Murasaki, on October 15, 2002, entitled SURFACE FASTENER, based on an application filed June 29, 2001.

U.S. Patent No. 5,786,061, issued to Banfield, on July 28, 1998, entitled SEPARABLE FASTENER HAVING A PERIMETER COVER GASKET.

Japanese Patent No. 2788564, issued to Murasaki, registered June 5, 1998, published August 10, 1998, entitled THE HOOK-AND-LOOP-FASTENER PIECE CONNECTION OBJECT FOR SEAT CUSHIONS.

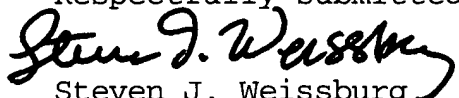
Although this statement includes all the relevant information presently known to the applicants, it should not

be interpreted as a representation that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no better information exists or that the items cited herein are admitted to be prior art. Moreover, Applicants invite the Examiner to make an independent evaluation of the cited information to determine its relevance to the subject matter of the present application. The citation of an item herein should not be considered to be an admission that the item is prior art.

Applicants are of the opinion that the claims of the present application patentably distinguish over this information or any combination thereof.

Applicant(s) believe the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is entitled to the benefit of 37 CFR §1.97(b)(1). Accordingly, applicant(s) believe that no fee or certification is required. If a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Order Account No. 23-0833. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge Account No. 23-0833 for any additional extension and/or fee that may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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October 29, 2003

**Cust. No. 021403**

Blue Mac Storage:Gibraltar clients:Clients:Velcro:VEL 98-04 Gallant:VEL 98-04 D2  
US:IDS.98-04D2.10/03

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	10-29-2003
				First Named Inventor	Peter E. Leach
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	3	Attorney Docket No.	VEL 98-04D2US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where relevant passages or figures appear
		Number	Kind Code			
		US-3,752,619		08-14-1973	Menzin et al.	
		US-4,563,380		01-07-1986	Black et al.	
		US-4,592,118		06-03-1986	DeWoskin	
		US-4,617,214		10-14-1986	Billarant	
		US-4,673,542		06-16-1987	Wigner et al.	
		US-4,693,921		09-15-1987	Billarant et al.	
		US-4,710,414		12-01-1987	Northrup et al.	
		US-4,726,975		02-23-1988	Hatch	
		US-4,732,631		03-22-1988	Shimizu	
		US-4,784,890		11-15-1988	Black	
		US-4,794,028		12-27-1988	Fischer	
		US-4,842,916		06-27-1989	Ogawa et al.	
		US-4,881,997		11-21-1989	Hatch	
		US-4,931,344		06-5-1990	Ogawa et al.	
		US-4,933,224		06-12-1990	Hatch	
		US-5,058,245		10-22-1991	Saito	
		US-5,061,540		10-29-1991	Cripps et al.	
		US-5,110,649		05-05-1992	Morse et al.	
		US-5,171,395		12-15-1992	Gilcreast	
		US-5,180,618		01-19-1993	Kessler et al.	
		US-5,259,905		11-09-1993	Gilcreast	
		US-5,260,015		11-09-1993	Kennedy et al.	
		US-5,286,431		02-15-1994	Banfield et al.	
		US-5,422,156		06-06-1995	Billarant	
		US-5,500,268		03-19-1996	Billarant	
		US-5,540,970		07-30-1996	Banfield	
		US-5,606,781		03-04-1997	Provost et al.	
		US-5,665,449		09-09-1997	Billarant	
		US-5,688,576		11-18-1997	Ohno et al.	
		US-5,725,928		03-10-1998	Kenney et al.	
		US-5,736,217		04-07-1998	Banfield et al.	
		US-5,786,061		07-28-1998	Banfield	
		US-4,951,408		08-28-1990	Banks	
		US-5,579,562		12-03-1996	Hattori et al.	
		US-5,766,723		06-16-1998	Oborny et al.	
		US-6,463,635	B2	10-2002	Murasaki	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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